

Report No. 48

Subject : Contact with Manuel and Pancho, 14 June.

15 June 1954
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED 2003

1. Manuel reported that the material for CMQ had been dispatched ~~the previous day~~ ^{the previous day}. This material, as previously reported, includes an exposition of El Plan de Tegucigalpa, as well as background material on Pancho and the C. C. A.
2. The importance of the three psy-war teams were emphasized to Pancho once more and he stated that he had given explicit orders that the men assigned to the three groups were not to be given any other assignment and that they were to be given all cooperation possible by the troop commanders. Both Pancho and Manuel seemed to grasp the importance of the psy-war operation, and agreed that it may result in villages and towns being taken without firing a shot.
3. Pancho stated that he had decided to keep Manuel with him and to assign another man if possible to San Pedro Sula to insure a steady flow of propaganda once action commences. In case that another man is not available, [] who has handled the broadcasts [] up to now will be given complete instructions by Manuel. The instructions will consist primarily of following the clandestine radio's lead and transmitting all bulletins forwarded by Manuel during the progress of the action.
4. Both Pancho and Manuel seemed in good humor and optimistic about the whole operation. Manuel, in particular, was in a highly emotional mood, after Pancho left. Manuel has sensed that the actual action is imminent and it seemed hard for him to believe that it will actually take place after so many months of waiting. I emphasized again to Manuel the importance of propaganda and counter propaganda and urged him to communicate his own enthusiasm for it to the rest of the men involved in it, particularly to the leaders of the three teams.
5. On 15 June, Manuel will be engaged in putting out the issue of La Voz which is scheduled to come out on the 19th. He will also be engaged in recording proclamations by Pancho and his chief aides to the people as a whole and to the army in particular. Copies of these proclamations will be forwarded to you and to all our radio outlets.
6. Manuel and I scheduled a meeting for the 15th at which time I will pass him the money for expenses from 15 to 30 June. Note: This is the first time that Pancho acquiesced to having me pass the money to Manuel instead of to him personally.

Comment: (The following comments are included for your information and reflect my appraisal of both Manuel and Pancho.) Pancho, as always, seemed in high spirits. On first meeting him, I was not aware of the fact that Pancho has a tendency to joke about even the most serious matters. On leaving, I shook his hand and stated that I wished him and his men the best of luck. With a completely straight face, Pancho stated that there was no need of our saying goodbye since I would be right up front with him and his men. When I told him that I certainly wished that I could go along with him, he laughed and stated that he was not serious since he understood that I could not go along with them no matter how much I might want to do so. On another instance, when Manuel informed him that the wires leading to Radio America had been cut and he was sure that local commie might take even more drastic action against the radio station, Pancho stated that he would send two armored cars to stand guard outside the station. When Manuel started to ask him if such a thing was possible, Pancho laughed and stated that he realized the danger, but that he had already taken all the security measures possible, i.e., procured the assistance of the local police and posted a few of his own men around the station. Manuel has always spoken of Pancho with respect, particularly praising Pancho's honest level-headed attitude. Manuel has stated several times that he can not understand how Pancho has remained calm in the face of all the problems he has had to face. Manuel, himself, is of a more excitable nature and can become violent when aroused. I have found Manuel to be very logical in his approach to all problems, in many instances anticipating our instructions, and always able to grasp the importance of any suggestion coming from us and willing to work unstintingly in carrying them out. I believe that I reported previously that while Manuel has always displayed and expressed complete loyalty towards Pancho, he also has great respect for Col. Flores, with whom he worked previously inside the factory. Manuel has stated several times that he regards Col. Flores as perhaps the most complete gentleman he has ever met. In Manuel's own words, Flores is "un hombre integro." Manuel was particularly happy when Pancho announced that Flores would be his second in command. Briefly, then, both Pancho and Manuel have impressed me as being sincere and hard working, and I at no time have I ever had the occasion to doubt their desire to work unselfishly for their country.

Rodolfo